

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AGR-01 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14  
EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00  
/109 W

-----042056 121254Z /64

R 110851Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4840

UNCLAS ROME 14732

FODAG  
FOR PAUL BYRNES,IO/AGR  
PASS USDA FOR KRIESBERG

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: FAO AORG  
SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP ROME MEETING, AUGUST 10

REF: (A) STATE 201666, (B) ROME 14731

1. FODAG UNABLE POSTPONE MEETING AS REQUESTED REFTEL.
2. GENEVA GROUP (GG) MEETING OF AUGUST 10 WAS INCLUSIVE.  
WITH EXCEPTION OF U.K., NEW ZEALAND AND CANADA,  
OTHER GG MEMBERS DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS. MOST SPOKE ON BASIS  
OF PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH CAPITALS.
2. BOTH UK AND NEW ZEALAND INDICATED COULD SUPPORT FAO 1980/81  
BUDGET BASED ON 2 PERCENT REAL GROWTH ON BASE OF \$210 MILLION.
3. NETHERLANDS INDICATED PRELIMINARY POSITION WOULD BE TO RESERVE  
ON ANY SUCH PROPOSAL AS GOVERNMENT BELIEVED FAO SHOULD  
SPECIFY AND JUSTIFY ANY INCREASES IN ONGOING PROGRAMS AND INDICATE  
NON RECURRING COSTS AND PROGRAMS.

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4. SWEDISH OBSERVER SAID SWEDEN HAS SAME POSTITION AS  
NETHERLANDS.
5. CANADA STATED IT COULD ACCEPT INCREASE OF UP TO 2 PERCENT  
BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT STARTING FROM BASE OF \$210 MILLION.  
CANADA SUBMITTED DETAILED STATEMENT ON POSITION; BEING CABLED  
SEPARATELY (REFTEL B).

6. SWITZERLAND, ON PRELIMINARY BASIS, INDICATES: (A) THEY COULD SUPPORT INCREASE OF 2-2 1/2 PERCENT ; (B) THOUGH NOT CLEAR, SWISS SEEMED TO INDICATE COULD ACCEPT ADDITIONAL COST INCREASES IF JUSTIFIED BY FAO. (COMMENT : IF THIS IS CASE, PSOTION ON 2 PERCENT IS MEANINGLESS.) SWISS REP SEEKING CLARIFICATION.

7. JAPAN REP STATED GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING ZERO GROWTH. INDICATED, THOUGH, PROBABLY IN END, TOKYO WOULD GO ALONG WITH 2 PERCENT AS FINAL FIGURE,BUT DISCUSSIONS WITH FAO SHOULD NOT START THERE. THIS APPEARED TO BE MAJOR PROBLEM WITH TOKYO.

8. ITALIAN REP STATED PROBABLY ITALIAN POSITON WOULD BE FOR "ONE PERCENT "INCREASE, BUT BECAUSE OF "INFLATION AND OTHER FACTORS", IT WOULD AMOUNT REALLY TO ZERO INCREASE. ITALIAN REP UNABLE CLARIFY POSITION.

9. FRENCH REP STATED FRANCE WAS OPPOSED, IN PRINCIPLE, TO AGREEING IN ADVANCE ON PERCENTAGE INCREASE. BELIEVES IT WOULD SET BAD PECEDENT AND THAT FAO SHOULD JUSTIFY ANY INCREASES.

10. AUSTRALIAN REP, ON PRELIMINARY BASIS, SAYS HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEPT 2 PERCENT CEILING. HOWEVER, HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED REPRESENTATION OF GG POSITION TO FAO SHOULD NOT BE AS GENEVA GROUP, BUT ON INDIVIDUAL OR INFORMAL BASIS.  
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11. BELGIAN REP STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FINALIZED ITS POSTION, BUT WOULD HOPE TO DO SO IN NEAR FUTURE. ALSO WOULD SEEK COORDINATED EC PSOITION AS WELL. IF LATTER POINT WERE CARRIED OUT, WOULD NECESSITATE CHANGES IN FRENCH, UK, AND DUTCH POSITIONS.

12. U.S. INDICATED IT HAD NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS.

13. FRG NOTIN ATTENDANCE.

14. BECAUSE MANY MEMBER COUNTRIES PRESENT INDICATED GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE FINAL DECISIONS BEFORE EARLY SEPTEMBER, NOT POSSIBLE SCHEDULE ANOTHER MEETING IN AUGUST.

15. IN SUMMARY, GG MEETING GAVE ONLY PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF POSITIONS. IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS POINT TO REACH CONCLUSIONS AS TO FINAL OUTCOME. ONCE U.S.GOVERNMENT HAS ARRIVED AT POSITION, FODAG BELIEVES NECESSARY THERE BE EXTENSIVE CONSULATIONS WITH OTHER GG MEMBERS PRIOR TO NEXT MEETING, NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 7.

16. UK CO-CHAIRMAN OF GGR PREPARING SUMMARY OF AUGUST 10  
MEETING. FODAG WILL CABLE WHEN AVAILABLE.HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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